1205.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the invention to read as follows: --METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING PACKETS AT A TRANSFER RATE THAT DEPENDS ON A RESPONSE FROM A DESTINATION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 19-29, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 13-15, and 18, and add new Claims 30-37 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

Sub B1

1. (Amended) An apparatus having different transfer rates, the apparatus comprising:

A1

a) a communication unit adapted to transmit a predetermined packet to destinations at a predetermined transfer rate; and

b) a control unit adapted to discriminate a maximum transfer rate between

Cont A'

the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the destinations.

Sub B'

4. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower that the predetermined transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

5. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit transmits data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after discriminating the maximum transfer rate.

A2

6. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the communication unit packetizes the data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destinations.

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein an amount of data packetized in each packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Sub B'

A3

10. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit conform to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Sub B'

A4

13. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

14. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

15. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID that indicates a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

18. (Amended) A method for an apparatus having different transfer rates, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a predetermined packet to destinations at a predetermined transfer rate; and

b) discriminating a maximum transfer rate. between the apparatus and the destinations, based on a response transmitted from each of the destinations.

30. (New) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of retransmitting the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower that the predetermined transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

31. (New) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after discriminating the maximum transfer rate.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the transmitting step includes packetizing the data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destinations.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein an amount of data packetized in each packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

cont. Ab

34. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

35. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

36. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

37. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.